

My project, East of Adams, is a study of Adams's photographic works and techniques. I then had planned to travel to Acadia National park in Maine. Using a 4x5 larger format Speed Graphics camera, I would shoot the dramatic landscapes and life of Acadia in Adams's style. The next step in the project was to develop the film and then print murals size images to showcase the majesty of the park. My goal was that these images would, like Adams's, help my peers to appreciate the natural wonders of North America, and in turn, enjoy the national parks. Adams believed that every person has the right to the parks, and they should enjoy them beyond a physical level but on a deeper emotional level, if not spiritual. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the photographic documentation portion of my project has been pushed until travel is safe once again.

Adams is often noted as one of the most influential landscape photographers. At a young age, he fell in love with America's western national parks and photographed them throughout his lifetime. Through his work, Adams documented several national parks, published many books, and actively contributed to the saving and creating America's national parks. His efforts in large part contributed to the creation of Kings Canyon National Park in California. Adams worked with the Guggenheim, Federal government, the Sierra Club, and other esteemed organizations to document the parks to add to their legacy. My honors project stemmed from the project Adams was hired to complete for the new Washington DC Department of The Interior building. He was commissioned to shoot the parks and print mural-size images to line the walls of the building. This project, however, was canceled after the bombing of Pearl Harbor; however, Adams continued to take the photographs nonetheless.

Acadia National Park was the first national park set up east of the Mississippi in 1919. Not only that, but Acadia was also the first national park created from entirely donated land. Acadia boasts one of the highest biodiversity of all the parks, in part due to its location on the Gulf of Maine, which has abundant marine biodiversity. Acadia is found in Mount Desert Island in Down East Maine and also takes up several other small outlying islands. There are several wonders in Acadia, including the highest peak on the east coast, Cadillac Mountain. Today it is important that we care for the park and enjoy what it has to offer as national parks are facing budget cuts at this time. These budget cuts mean loss of staff, operation, maintenance all while

faced with increased funding for energy development on public lands. The parks are struggling with the evolving world and the stress of climate change on the earth. Conservation for Acadia National Park, as well as within the park to protect its diverse life, is more critical than ever.

My 4x5 Speed Graphics camera from the 1950s was commonly used by the press. Made by the Company Graflex, these cameras were widely noted for their durability, high functionality, and ability to take photos in challenging situations. This camera is no longer commonly used. The larger format negative size of four inches by five inches, the reason the camera is frequently called a 4x5, offers excellent detail in the images. Because of the high detail in the negatives, they translate beautifully when the image is enlarged, such as a mural print. These cameras use individual negative slides that must be removed and replaced with each image. Using these cameras can be tricky for untrained photographers, however, once they're understood, they are incredibly versatile, creating beautiful imagery.